

Frequently Asked Questions: Adult

Does radiation hurt?

No. Radiation treatment itself does not hurt; it's like having an X-ray. Side effects from the treatment may develop, but these can be treated with creams and medications.

How do the doctors know where to treat me?

Radiation is given only after careful review of your diagnostic exams, which may include X-rays, CT, MRI and bone scans. A target area is designated and marked during the simulation process, with added information from all previous exams.

When do I see the doctor?

You will see the doctor once a week on a designated day.

Do I get the same amount of radiation every day?

Yes, the doctor has designed a special plan for you that requires us to give the same amount every day.

Who decides how much radiation I get every day?

Your radiation oncologist.

What do I do during treatment?

Be very still. This will help ensure that the radiation is delivered to the right place.

Why do you take X-rays every week?

The X-rays allow us to make sure the radiation is being delivered to the tumor.

Do they show my cancer?

No, they ensure proper alignment with bony anatomy.

Do I have to be alone when I have my treatments?

Yes, but we will monitor you on camera and with an audio system at all times.

Does radiation affect my whole body?

No, radiation only affects the area being treated.

Who schedules my treatments?

Your therapists.

Can I eat or drink before my treatments?

Generally, yes, but your doctor may give you specific instructions about this.

Will I be radioactive (glow in the dark)?

No.

How will my daily routine be affected by my treatments?

Continue your daily activities. However, your physician may suggest you limit activities that might irritate the treated area.

What can I do to get better?

Rest when you're tired. Tell your doctors and treatment team how you feel. We are here to help make your radiation therapy as easy as possible.

What can I bring with me to treatment?

If you'd like to listen to music during your treatment, you can. Our treatment rooms are equipped to play CDs, so bring your favorite.